

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 AGRE-00 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1986

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, UNCTAD, BG

SUBJ: UNCTAD COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 208183, (B) STATE 207962

1. SUMMARY: ECON COUNSELOR MET SEPTEMBER 3 WITH COMMERCE MINISTRY  
5. SECRETARY NURUL NABI CHOUDHURY WHO AGREED IT REASONABLE FROM PRO-  
CEDURAL POINT OF VIEW TO HAVE AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING  
GROUP CALLED FOR IN UNCTAD IV RESOLUTION ON COMMODITIES, TO MEET  
PROMPTLY IN OCTOBER AFTER THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT SESSION.  
HOWEVER, CHOUDHURY WAS ILL-INFORMED ON DATES AND AGENDA FOR UPCOMING  
TDB SESSION AND, WITHOUT FURTHER APPROACH HERE, BDG IS NOT LIKELY TO  
INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AN EARLY MEETING AS SOUGHT BY US.  
FURTHER DETAILS ON TDB MEETING WOULD HELP US IN SUCH A FURTHER  
APPROACH HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. ECON COUNSELOR CALLED SEPTEMBER 3  
RELEVANT COMMERCE  
JOINT SECRETARY, NURUL NABI CHOUDHURY, TO ARGUE US CASE AS DETAILED  
IN REFTEL A AND LEAVE TEXT OF LETTER TO UNCTAD SYG AND INFORMAL  
NOTE ON US VIEWS DRAWN FROM REFTELS. CHOUDHURY, WHO HAD BEEN  
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MEMBER OF BDG DELEGATION TO UNCTAD IV, RECALLED THAT BDG HAD SUP-

PORTED WITHOUT RESERVATION THE COMMODITIES RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS AT NAIROBI. THE COMMODITIES OF GREATEST INTEREST TO THE BDG ARE JUTE AND TEA. HE LEFT IMPRESSION THAT BDG WAS NOT LIKELY TO ATTEND VERY MANY OF THE CONSULTATIONS ON OTHER COMMODITIES.

3. CHOUDHURY RECALLED THAT USG HAD EXPRESSED "STRONG" RESERVATIONS ON COMMODITIES RESOLUTION AT UNCTAD IV AND HE APPARENTLY HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT US MIGHT NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE SEPARATE CONSULTATIONS ON THE EIGHTEEN DIFFERENT COMMODITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE RESOLUTION. ECON COUNSELOR SAID IT HIS CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT US PLANNING PARTICIPATE IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS, BUT WAS CONCERNED WITH IMPORTANCE OF FORUM, MANNER AND TIMING (IN RELATION TO AD HOC COMMITTEE WORK) OF SEPARATE CONSULTATIONS. CHOUDHURY BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT THAT US PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS AND, WITH PREJUDICE TO ISSUES OF USE OF EXISTING FORUMS OR LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING, THOUGHT IT APPROPRIATE TO RESPECT US VIEW ON "PROCEDURAL QUESTION" OF TIMING OF MEETING OF AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING GROUP. AN EARLY MEETING TO PERMIT THAT AD HOC COMMITTEE AT LEAST TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES BEFORE INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS BEGAN, SEEMED SENSIBLE TO CHOUDHURY.

4. ON OTHER HAND, CHOUDHURY DID NOT KNOW DATES OF TDB MEETING AND HAD NOT YET RECEIVED COPY OF AGENDA (HE WAS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT END-OCTOBER SESSION OF FAO WORKING GROUP ON JUTE).

5. COMMENT/ACTION REQUESTED. WE BELIEVE THAT WHEN ISSUE ARISES AT TDB, BANGLADESH AS IT INVARIABLY DOES ON ALL ISSUES NOT INVOLVING ITS NATIONAL INTERESTS DIRECTLY WILL FOLLOW THE LEAD OF ITS DEVELOPING COUNTRY COLLEAGUES IN GROUPS A AND C. HOWEVER, GIVEN CHOUDHURY'S VIEW OF THE REASONABLENESS OF THE US POSITION, WE BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE TO FOLLOW UP AT THE PLANNING COMMISSION (WHICH SHARES RESPONSIBILITY ON UNCTAD MATTERS WITH COMMERCE MINISTRY), IN HOPES OF GETTING SOMETHING FAVORABLE TO OUR POINT OF VIEW INCLUDED IN ANY BDG INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATION. FOR OUR INFORMATION, WHAT ARE THE DATES OF THE FORTHCOMING TDB SESSION? HAS ANY OTHER LDC ACCEPTED US POINT OF VIEW?  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

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